

FDA Commissioner
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

8992 '01 MAR 30 P3 :09

RE: Docket No. 00D-1598 (labelling of genetically engineered foods)
and Docket No. 00N-1396 (pre-market testing of genetically engineered foods)

Dear FDA:

I am **extremely** concerned about your proposed policies on genetically engineered (GE) foods. Despite **overwhelming** consumer demand; your agency is **still failing** to **require basic safety testing** or mandatory **labeling** for GE foods. Labels on GE foods are required in Japan, Russia, and throughout Europe, and opinion polls state that the majority of Americans want **testing and labelling**, yet your new **proposal** continues to deny Americans the right to know and trust what is in our food.

There has been ample evidence submitted to the FDA revealing that genetically **engineered** foods are **not** "substantially equivalent" to non-genetically engineered foods, that there are numerous health and environmental risks. Species boundaries are crossed and new, **potentially-toxic proteins created**. We are eating **experimental** food never before consumed in the **history of mankind**. Your agency is failing to protect 'us.

FDA's voluntary labeling guidelines (Docket No; 00D-1598) are **unacceptable** since we all know the industry will not choose to label this food. Labels must be **required** so we can have a choice in what we eat. **Labelling will** also serve to protect us from potential **health effects** that could only be traced if GE foods are identified. The second proposed rule (Docket No, 00N-1396) requiring companies to notify FDA before bringing GE foods to our supermarket shelves is **woefully inadequate**. You do not even require the basic testing given to food additives. Genetically engineered foods have additives — from other species, bacteria, and pesticides, to **name a few**. We **want** safety testing of genetically engineered foods before they are placed on our grocery shelves.

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Recently, both the E.U./U.S. Biotechnology Consultative Forum and the Consumer Federation of America recommended mandatory labelling of genetically engineered foods. The FDA should heed this and stop working on behalf of the manufacturers of genetically engineered foods. Instead, begin to work for the safety and rights of the American public, your actual constituency. Genetically engineered foods should be tested and labeled!

Sincerely,

name:

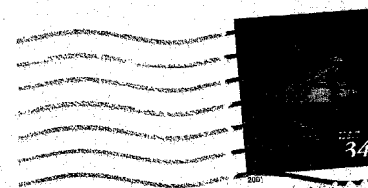
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P.S. The long, and even short-term effects of this experimentation with human nutrition could be a disaster! — i.e. mad cow type... 9/10



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